

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a switch-box, wherein the switch-box comprises a memory buffer and a control, the memory buffer to which information is copied from a computing system selected via the switch-box from two or more computing systems coupled with the switch-box as a result of the control recognizing a first ~~substantially~~ predetermined event.

2. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the information copied from a computing system selected via the switch-box is copied to another selected computing system of the two or more computing systems as a result of a second ~~substantially~~ predetermined event.

3. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 2, wherein the first and second ~~substantially~~ predetermined events are ~~substantially~~ predetermined respective first and second keystroke sequences.

4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3 further comprising a timer employed, at least in part, to

recognize the first and second keystroke sequences.

5. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the switch-box is adapted to allow the memory buffer and a single set of interface devices to be selectively coupled at ~~substantially~~ individual times with a one of the two or more computing systems based, at least in part, on a user selection.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the single set of interface devices comprises at least one of: a keyboard, a display monitor and a pointing device.

7. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the two or more computing systems are coupled with the switch-box via a data transfer coupling and a set of interface device couplings.

8. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises a parallel interface.

9. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises a serial interface.

10. (Original) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the serial interface comprises a Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface.

11. (Original) The apparatus of claim 7, wherein the data transfer coupling comprises an infrared communication interface.

12. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

copying information from one of at least two or more computing systems to an external buffer included in a switch-box, the switch-box being accessible by the two or more computing systems, the copying occurring as a result of a control recognizing a first substantially predetermined event, wherein the control is included in the switch-box.

13. (Original) The method of claim 12, wherein copying information to the external buffer is accomplished by employing a standard cut-and-paste buffer of the one of at least two or more computing systems.

14. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising copying the information in the external buffer to another computing system of the two or more computing systems as a result of a second ~~substantially~~ predetermined event.

15. (Currently amended) The method of claim 14, wherein the first and second ~~substantially~~ predetermined events comprise ~~substantially~~ predetermined, ~~substantially~~ time-limited respective first and second keystroke sequences.

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the first and second keystroke sequences are keystroke sequences defined by respective operating systems of the one of the more computing systems and the another computing system of the two or more computing systems for accessing standard cut-and-paste buffers employed by those systems.

17. (Currently amended) The method of claim 12, wherein the first and second keystroke sequences are ~~substantially~~ dedicated keystroke sequences for copying information to and from the external buffer.

18. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

determining by a control in a switch-box that a network copy request has been generated;

copying information from a first computing system to a network cut-and-paste data-structure as a result of the network copy request, wherein the network cut-and-paste data-structure is stored in a memory buffer of the switch-box; and

associating the copied information with a user-id for a current user in the network cut-and-paste buffer data-structure.

19. (Original) The method of claim 18, further comprising

determining that a network paste request has been generated; searching the cut-and-paste data structure as a result of the network paste request;

determining that the copied information associated with the user-id for the current user

exists in the cut-and-paste data structure; and

as a result, pasting the copied information from the cut-and-paste data-structure to a second computing system.

20. (Currently amended) The method of claim 19, wherein determining that the network copy request was generated comprises recognizing a first ~~substantially~~ predetermined, ~~substantially~~ time-limited event.

21. (Currently amended) The method of claim 20, wherein determining that the network paste request has been generated comprises recognizing a second ~~substantially~~ predetermined, ~~substantially~~ time-limited event.

22. (Currently amended) The method of claim 21, wherein the first and second ~~substantially~~ predetermined, ~~substantially~~ time-limited events comprise respective first and second keystroke sequences.

23. (Canceled)

24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) The method of claim 18, wherein copying information comprises employing a standard cut-and-paste buffer for an operating system of the first computing system.

26. (Currently amended) An article comprising: a storage medium having a plurality of machine-readable instructions, wherein when the instructions are executed by a computing system, the instructions provide for determining by a control in a switch-box that a network copy request has been generated; copying information from a first computing system to a network cut-and-paste data-structure as a result of the network copy request, wherein the network cut-and-paste data-structure is stored in a memory buffer of the switch-box; and associating the copied information with a user-id for a current user in the network cut-and-paste buffer data-structure.

27. (Original) The article of claim 26, further comprising instructions for determining that a network request has been generated; searching the cut-and-paste data structure as a result of the network paste request; determining the copied information associated with the user-id for the current user exists in the cut-and-paste data structure; and as a result, pasting the copied information from the cut-and-paste data-structure to a second computing system.

28. (Currently amended) The article of claim 27, wherein determining that the network copy request was generated comprises recognizing a first ~~substantially~~ predetermined, ~~substantially~~ time-limited event and determining that the network paste request was generated comprises recognizing a second ~~substantially~~ predetermined, ~~substantially~~ time-limited event.

29. (Original) The article of claim 26, wherein the cut-and-paste data structure comprises an array including a user-id data-field and an information-field.

30. (Original) The article of claim 29, wherein associating the user-id with the copied information comprises copying the user-id to a user-id data-field for a specific one array entry and copying the information to a corresponding information data-field for the specific one array entry.